

Message

From: Farak, Sonja (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=SONJA.FARAK]
Sent: 9/7/2011 12:12:02 PM
To: Stan.Rosenberg@masenate.gov
Subject: RE: state drug lab status

Senator Rosenberg-

I'm curious as to how your meeting with the Commissioner of Public Health went a couple of weeks ago regarding the (possible?) closure of the state drug lab in Amherst. As one of the four employees of the drug lab, I feel that we are being left out of the loop and our lives have been put on hold as we try to patiently await any word of what is going on, whether it be good news or bad. All of us at the lab would greatly appreciate any knowledge that you have of this situation and feel that we deserve to know the fate of our public service. Thank you in advance for your all of your help.

Respectfully,

Sonja

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From: Rosenberg, Stan C (SEN) [mailto:Stan.Rosenberg@masenate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 1:02 PM
To: Kane, Wendy
Subject: Re: state drug lab status

Thanks for your email and your suggestion. I will explore all opportunities for keeping the office in Western Mass.DPH isn't a bad agency but they like all other agencies are struggling with budget cuts so although there are undoubtedly other agencies that would be appropriate to house the lab I suspect they would balk unless they get the funding for it. I'll do my best to help work this out.

Stan

From: Kane, Wendy [mailto:WKane@wmls.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Rosenberg, Stan C (SEN)
Cc: 'sfarak@hotmail.com' <sfarak@hotmail.com>
Subject: state drug lab status

Dear Senator Rosenberg: : My neighbor is one of the drug lab employees who is soon to either be relocated or lose their job. I saw in the State House News Service that you were meeting with the Public Health Commissioner on Wednesday on the closure of her lab in Amherst. It is difficult to reconcile the justification for this lab closure when all the statistics seem to indicate little overall cost saving will be achieved, and what little there is will be foisted off on cities and towns. I realize that this element of Public Health's budget is more appropriate with Public Safety and perhaps that is the reason

there seems to be the little commitment for this Department to support the service . Is there any chance of relocating the service to a Department who sees this as a benefit to the overall goals of their agencies?

Unfortunately it appears the cost savings analysis does not seem to have been done in such a way as to consider all factors. I hope western Mass. does not have to assume the burden of a convenient, but ill thought out idea.

Senator Rosenberg, I hope you are able to get the issue reconsidered. Thank you for your concerns about this proposal.

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Wendy Kane

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